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ABSTRACT

The report describes and evaluates the use of a set of learning tools called database managers and their creation of databases to help teach problem solving skills in social studies. Details include the design, building, and use of databases in a social studies setting, along with advantages and disadvantages of using them. The three types of available packages are discussed with descriptions and comments for each: (1) general purpose database management programs include AppleWorks, Bank Street Beginner's Filer, Bank Street School Filer, Create-a-Base, Data Handler, Electric Desk, FileVision, Friendly Filer, Mastertype's Filer, MECC Dataquest: The Composer, MECC Stuff and Fetch, Notebook Filer, Rapid Recall, Scholastic PFS: File Series, Secret Filer, and Three to Get Ready; (2) data disks for database managers programs include Countries of the World, Friendly File: US & World Facts, NewsWorks, North America Database Disk, Regions Near and Far Data Files, Social Studies Fact Finder: States-Junior High, Social Studies Fact Finder: States-Senior High, United States Past to Present, US Government Data Bases for PFS: file, US History Data Bases for PFS, World Geography: Cultures & Economics, World Past to Present, World Today; and (3) dedicated databases programs include Atlas, Demo-Graphics: World Population & Projections, Hometown: A Local Area Study, Macro's World History Database, MECC Dataquest: The Fifty States, MECC Dataquest: The Presidents, MECC Dataquest: The Composer, One World Countries Database, Political Genie, Research, Today in History, USA Profile, and the US Constitution: Then and Now. The products are compared according to feature and capability areas: searching capabilities; fields; records; reporting; and sorting. Educators rated the products using the following criteria: accurate content; relevant categories; enough information; comprehensive print materials; easy to learn and use; accessible data; and flexible displays. Some general conclusions are given about the products, such as expense, flexibility and comparison of features and capabilities. An appendix with additional information about database managers, producer information, resources, and a seven-item bibliography is included. (TES)

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Database Software for Social Studies

A MicroSIFT Quarterly Report

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WHAT IS THIS REPORT ABOUT?

A Short Quiz

1. What is the population of New Hampshire?

   If you don't know, you can look in an almanac or ask a friend. Students learn how to get information like this early in their school careers.

2. What other states have similar populations?

   This question is trickier because you need some information about all of the states before deciding what the word "similar" means. Still, this is a task that students can do with some reasoning skills and an almanac or encyclopedia.

3. What other things do states with similar populations have in common?

   Now we are talking research. It is this kind of question that demands that nebulous quality which educators are fond of calling problem solving skills.

This issue of the MicroSIFT Quarterly report is about a set of tools which help to teach these skills while teaching social studies. The tools are called database managers and what they create are databases.

Database managers (DBM) let a student store information in a computer, retrieve it, display or print it and (sometimes) sort, count, total, or average. They have two major components: the database management software which gives the computer the ability to perform these tasks, and the data or information which is manipulated by the software. Generally, these two components are on separate disks. There is a detailed explanation of database managers and the associated terminology in the Appendix.

HOW ARE SOCIAL STUDIES DATABASE PRODUCTS USED IN THE CLASSROOM?

Designing a database--In designing a database, students are involved in many activities which develop higher level thinking skills, organizational skills and communication skills. The list of activities below describes the sequence generally followed when creating a database with students.

- Clearly define the class of information to be contained in the database, i.e., define what makes up a record
- Conduct research to identify what information is available on the topic
- Examine the data for commonalities and differences
- Define the fields which make up the records
- Define the vocabulary and format of the fields
- Create the forms on the computer as well as printed data entry forms

In a classroom setting, these activities could be structured to involve an entire classroom in the design of a single database, or the class could be divided into small groups where each group designs a database. Databases could also be designed individually by more advanced students.

Building a database--Students can develop research skills and work cooperatively by collecting the information containied in a database. The tasks involved include:

- Researching and collecting the information specified in the database design
- Verifying the data for accuracy and consistency in terminology
- Entering and editing the data
- Modifying and debugging the database design

A goal in building a database is to collect all the records into one file. There are several ways to do this. One is to dedicate one computer work station as the central data entry point. All students enter their data in one master file that is backed-up FREQUENTLY. Another method involves students doing the data entry at several work stations on several disks. When each student has completed his/her data entry, the records are copied onto a master file disk.

Using the database--An existing database may be used to provide experiences for the student which range from simple to complex:

- Information retrieval. At the simplest level, the database can be used as a resource of information. For example, a database of states could be used to find the population of New Hampshire.

- Recognizing patterns and trends. Students might examine a database on population mobility for patterns in the number of families moving to a new community.

- Analyzing relationships. Have students examine a database on planets to determine the relationship between the orbital velocity and the distance from the sun.

- Testing hypotheses. A database on states might be searched to test the hypothesis that most of the population in the U.S. is located near a major waterway.

- Interpreting the data. A database of countries could be sorted by education level, then the type of government currently in power studied. What can be inferred from this?

- Thinking Critically. The students could examine the words used to describe the various governments in a countries database to check the validity of the classification.

A database can be used in any classroom setting. With the whole class the teacher can direct a demonstration using a large screen monitor. Small groups can work at one or more stations or students can work individually or in pairs in a computer lab.

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF USING DATABASES?

Teachers familiar with the classroom use of database packages have identified the following advantages:

- One general purpose database management package can be used in a wide variety of topic areas and levels.

- A database can be created and used which relates to the specific topics covered in any social studies curriculum.

- Using the computer as a tool to solve problems is a real world application of the computer which cannot be performed using any other media.

- Using the database develops higher level thinking skills.

- The activities are motivating because the students feel they have control over the data.

The disadvantages are expressed more as cautions to the teacher:

- The teacher must decide when and if a computerized database activity is better instructionally than a printed or written research activity. Some uses of databases could be achieved just as well using existing print materials found in a library.

- Managing the activity requires a significant amount of planning and background work. Teacher preparation includes planning for:

  --Disk handling and making back-ups
  --Maintaining the security of the student's records
  --Scheduling time at the work stations.

WHAT PRODUCTS ARE AVAILABLE?

There are three types of packages available for use in the social studies classroom.

1. General Purpose Database Management Packages are simply the database management software program and supplementary print materials describing the operation of the software. While there are several hundred general purpose database management packages for microcomputers available, most were designed for home or business. A few of these packages are used in the classroom because they are easy to use or because they are widely popular in the home or business market. These packages generally do not contain any ready-made data files which would be useful in the social studies classroom. Occasionally, a sample file is provided for use while learning to operate the program.

   Only a few database management packages were specifically designed for classroom use. The print materials which accompany these packages often include instructional objectives, instructions to the teachers and students, ideas for classroom use, reproducible student worksheets, etc. In a few cases, the same product is available in a school version and a version for home or business.

2. Data Disks for General Purpose Database Management Packages are separately available disks containing information on a specific topic. For example, there are several data disks available which contain demographic data on the individual states in the United States. To use a data disk, the purchaser must first have the DBM software for which the data disk was designed.

3. Dedicated Database Packages include both the database management software and a useful set of data. However, the database management software is dedicated to manipulating that particular set of data and could not be used to create a database.

Table 1 on the next page gives a list of those products identified at the time of publication.

PRODUCT DESCRIPTIONS
TABLE #1

TITLE	PRODUCER	COST	HARDWARE	LEVEL	TOPIC	OTHER SOFTWARE
DATABASE MANAGEMENT PACKAGES						
AppleWorks	Apple	250.00	AP	4-12	NA	None
Bank Street Beginner's Filer	Sunburst	79.00	AP	1-4	NA	None
Bank Street School Filer	Sunburst	99.00	AP	4-12	NA	None
Create-a-Base	MECC	29.00	AP	6-9	NA	None
Data Handler	MECC	49.00	AP	9-12	NA	None
Electric Desk	IBM	86.00	IB	6-12	NA	DOS
FileVision	Telos	78.00	MC	7-16	NA	None
Friendly Filer	Grolier	54.95	AP CO IB	4-12	NA	DOS for IBM
Mastertype's Filer	Scarboroug	39.95	AP IB CO AT	3-12	NA	DOS for IBM
MECC Dataquest: The Composer	MECC		AP	5-12	NA	None
MECC Stuff and Fetch	MECC	49.00	AP	6-10	NA	None
Notebook Filer	Heath	51.00	AP	3-12	NA	None
Rapid Recall	CBS	49.95	IB	4-12	NA	DOS
Scholastic PFS:file series	Scholastic	AP(Desc)	AP IB	7-12	NA	DOS for IBM
Secret Filer	Scholastic	29.95	AP CO	4-8	NA	None
Three To Get Ready	Prog. Des.	125.00	AP IB	6-12	NA	DOS for IBM
DATA DISKS						
Countries of the World	Grolier	44.95	AP	3-9	GE	Friendly Filer
Friendly Files: US & World Facts	Grolier	14.95	AP CO IB	3-9	GE	Friendly Filer
NewsWorks	News Week	(desc)	AP	7-12	GE HS GO EC	AppleWorks
North Americs Data Base	Sunburst	59.00	AP	4-12	GE EC	Bank Street
Regions Near and Far Data Files	Heath	45.00	AP	4	GE	Notebook Filer
Social Studies Fact Finder: States-JH	HRM	49.00	AP	7-9	GE	PFS:file
Social Studies Fact Finder: States-SH	HRM	49.00	AP	9-12	HS	PFS:file
United States Past to Present	Heath	45.00	AP	5	HS	Notebook Filer
US Constitution: Then and Now	Scholastic		AP	7-12	HS GO	AppleWorks
US Government Data Bases for PFS	Scholastic	99.95	AP	7-12	GO	PFS:file
US History Data Bases for PFS	Scholastic	99.95	AP IB	7-12	HS	PFS:file
World Geography, Cultures & Ecnomics	Scholastic	99.95	AP	7-12	GE	PFS:file
World Past to Present	Heath	45.00	AP	6-7	HS	Notebook Filer
World Today	Heath	45.00	AP	6-7	CU	Noetbook Filer
DEDICATED DATA PACKAGES						
Atlas	Softwr Con	69.95	MC AP IB RS	5-12	GE	DOS for IBM
Demo - Graphics: World Pop. & Proj.	Compress	95.00	IB	10-16	GE	DOS
Hometown: A Local Area Study	Act. Learn	148.00	AP IB CO AC	4-12	GE	DOS for IBM
Macro'S World History Databases	MACRO	59.95	AP	5-12	HS	None
MECC Dataquest: The Fifty States	MECC	49.00	AP	5-11	GE	None
MECC Dataquest: The Presidents	MECC	49.00	AP	4-12	HS	None
One World Countries Database	Act. Learn	148.00	AP IB CO AC	4-12	GE EC GO	DOS for IBM
Political Genie	Boring	75.00	IB AP	9-12	HS PS	DOS for IBM
Research	Economic	424.00	IB	11-16	EC	DOS
Today in History	Internl.	49.95	IB RS	9-12	HS	DOS for IBM
USA Profile	Act. Learn	148.00	AP IB CO AC	5-12	GE HS	DOS for IBM

HARDWARE KEY: AP - Apple, AT - Atari, CO - Commodore, IB - IBM, MC - MacIntosh, RS - Radio Shack
TOPIC KEY: CU - Current Events, EC - Economics, GE - Geography, GO - Government, HS - History, PS - Political Science

HOW DO THE AVAILABLE PRODUCTS COMPARE?

Two sets of criteria were used to evaluate these packages. First, a very objective set of criteria identify what the software will and will not do. The criteria used for this analysis consists of a set of features and capabilities commonly found in database management software. A second, more subjective set of criteria summarizes the opinions of educators who have used each package.

What Are Their Features and Capabilities?--Table #2 identifies the features and capabilities of the general purpose database managers and the dedicated databases. The data disks inherit the features and capabilities of their respective database manager. Below is an explanation of each criterion used and an abbreviation key.

Searching Capabilities--The following criteria relate to the software's ability to search for and retrieve the information stored in the database.

- Speed--Is the database management package fast or slow in its searching and sorting?
- And--Can the package search using more than one parameter connected by the AND logical connector? For example, could a "countries" file be searched for all which are European and have a democratic government?
- Or--Does the package provide a means of searching using more than one parameter connected by the OR logical connector? For example, could a "countries" file be searched for all which are European or Asian?
- Not--Can the package search for all except a given parameter? For example, could a "countries" file be searched for all countries not in Europe?
- Partial--Can the package search for a word or part of a word that is somewhere in the middle of the field?
- Less Than--Can the package search for a value less than a given number?
- Greater Than--Can the package search for a value greater than a given number?
- Not Equal To--Can the package search for everything except a given number?
- Range--Can the package search for values between two given numbers?

Fields--The following criteria relate to the field definitions and the package's flexibility to modify these field definitions after data has been entered.

- Max./Record--What is the maximum number of fields allowable per record?
- Max. Length--What is the maximum field length?
- Name Length--What is the maximum length of the field name?
- Rename--Can the field names be renamed without losing data?
- Add--Can fields be added without losing data?
- Delete--Can fields be deleted without losing data in the other fields?
- Move--Can the location of the fields on the screen be changed?
- Calculated--Can fields be created which are calculated from the contents of other fields?

Records--The following criteria relate to the records contained in a file.

- Max./File--What is the maximum number of records a file may contain?
- Add--Is it possible to add records to the file?
- Delete--Is it possible to delete records from the file?
- Copy--Is it possible to copy records from a file on one disk to a similar file on another disk? (This is important to educators who may wish to collect the records made by students working at different machines using several data disks onto one master data disk.)

Reporting--The following criteria relate to the printed reports the package is capable of generating.

- Label--Will the package print reports in a label format (example: mail labels)?
- Table--Will the package print reports in a table or column format?
- Graphing--Will the package display or print graphs?
- Total--Will the package calculate the total for a given field which contains numerical data?
- Average--Will the package calculate the average of a given field which contains numerical data?

- Count--Will the package count the number of records contained in a printed report?

- Derived--Is the package able to print information which is calculated or derived from other fields containing numerical data using a given mathematical formula?

Sorting--The following criteria relate to the sorting capabilities of the package.

- Levels--How many levels of sorting is the package capable of? For example, a package capable of sorting on two levels could sort a "countries" database alphabetically by continent first and then within those groups, alphabetically by country name.

- Optional Order--Is the user given the choice between ascending or descending order?

KEY

CODE	DEFINITION
Y	Yes
-	No
U	Unlimited
L	Limited - See Description
NA	Not Applicable
F	Fast
S	Slow

Features and Capabilities
Table 2

Title	Producer	Searching									Fields								Records				Reports							Sorting	
		Speed	And	Or	Not	Partial	Less Than	Greater Than	Not Equal To	Range	Max./Record	Max. Length	Name Length	Rename	Add	Delete	Move	Calculated	Max. File	Add	Delete	Copy	Label	Table	Graphing	Total	Average	Count	Derived	Levels	Optional Order
DATABASE MANAGERS																															
AppleWorks	Apple	F	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	20	79	20	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	L	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	-	-	Y	U	Y
Bank Street Beginner's Filer	Sunburst	F	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	10	23	12	Y	Y	Y	-	-	50	Y	Y	-	Y	Y	-	-	-	-	-	1	Y
Bank Street School Filer	Sunburst	F	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	50	95	15	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	L	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	Y	-	-	4	Y
Create-A-Base	MECC	S	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	9	23	12	-	-	-	-	-	240	Y	Y	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Data Handler	MECC	S	Y	-	Y	Y	L	L	Y	-	80	L	20	Y	Y	-	-	-	L	Y	Y	-	Y	Y	-	-	-	Y	-	U	-
Electric Desk	Alpha	S	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	50	L	U	L	L	L	L	-	L	Y	Y	L	Y	-	-	-	-	Y	-	1	-
FileVision	Telos	S	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	L	U	15	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	999	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	-	-	-	1	-
Friendly Filer	Grolier	S	Y	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	7	37	20	-	-	-	-	-	360	Y	Y	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
MasterType's Filer	Scarborough	S	Y	-	Y	Y	-	-	-	-	10	24	10	Y	Y	Y	-	-	250	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	-	-	-	1	Y
MECC Dataquest: The Composer	MECC	F	Y	Y	-	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	U	U	60	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	250	Y	Y	-	Y	Y	-	Y	-	-	-	U	Y
MECC: Stuff and Fetch	MECC	F	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	L	U	U	NA	NA	NA	NA	-	L	Y	Y	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	NA
Notebook Filer	Heath	F	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	20	27	9	-	-	-	-	-	L	Y	Y	-	Y	Y	-	Y	-	Y	-	1	-
Rapid Recall	CBS	L	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	-	-	-	56	76	NA	-	-	-	-	-	L	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	-	-	-	Y	-	L	-
Scholastic's PFS: file	Scholastic	S	Y	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	U	U	U	Y	Y	Y	Y	L	L	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
* Plus Report & Graph	Scholastic	S	Y	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	U	U	U	Y	Y	Y	Y	L	L	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2	-
Secret Filer	Scholastic	S	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	22	10	-	-	-	-	-	L	Y	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Three To Get Ready	Prog. Des.	S	Y	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	20	26	12	Y	-	-	-	-	360	Y	Y	-	Y	-	-	-	-	Y	-	1	Y
DEDICATED PACKAGES																															
Atlas	Concept	F	S	Y	-	Y	-	-	-	-	12	NA	NA	-	-	-	-	-	L	-	-	-	-	-	L	-	-	-	-	-	NA
Hometown: A Local Area Study	Active	S	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	L	24	L	12	-	-	-	-	-	800	Y	Y	-	Y	-	-	Y	Y	Y	-	-	NA
Macro's World History Databas	Macro	S	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	L	NA	NA	-	-	-	-	-	L	-	-	-	Y	Y	-	Y	Y	Y	-	2	Y
MECC Dataquest: The Fifty Sta	MECC	S	Y	Y	-	NA	Y	Y	-	Y	43	NA	NA	-	-	-	-	-	50	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	NA
MECC Dataquest: The President	MECC	S	Y	Y	-	NA	Y	Y	-	Y	23	NA	NA	-	-	-	-	-	40	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	NA
One World Countries Database	Active	S	Y	Y	-	L	Y	Y	-	-	33	NA	NA	-	-	-	-	-	178	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	NA
Political Genie	Boring	S	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	L	NA	NA	-	-	-	-	-	L	-	-	-	-	-	L	-	-	-	-	-	NA
Research	Economic	S	Y	Y	-	-	-	-	-	L	20	L	20	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	U	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	NA
Today in History	Internl.	S	L	L	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	72	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	366	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	NA
USA Profile	Active	S	Y	Y	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	60	NA	NA	-	-	-	-	L	51	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	NA

How Did Other Educators Rate These Products?--The packages listed in Table #3 were reviewed by at least three educators. The reviewers rated each package according to how well it met the eight general criteria given below and then gave the package an overall rating on a scale of 1 (low) to 4 (high).

- Accurate Content--The database contains accurate and up-to-date information.
- Relevant Categories--The field definitions used are relevant and useful.
- Enough Information--The database contains an adequate amount of information for meaningful interpretation.
- Comprehensive Print Materials--The supplementary printed materials are comprehensive.
- Easy to Learn--The package is easy to learn to use.
- Easy to Use--Once learned, the package is easy to use.
- Accessible Data--Data may easily be retrieved and manipulated.
- Flexible Displays--The screen and printed formats are flexible.

The package was given a rating of 4 if the reviewer strongly agreed that the criterion statement pertains to the package, a 3 if they generally agreed the statement relates to the package, a 2 if they disagreed, and 1 if they strongly disagreed that the statement pertains to the package. The average of all of the reviews collected for each package is given in Table #3. The reviewers were also asked to comment on the strength and weaknesses of the package. These comments can be found in the COMMENTS section of the description page for each product.

Software Evaluation Summaries
Table 3

Title	Producer	Accurate Content	Relevant Categories	Enough Information	Comprehensive Print Materials	Easy to Learn	Easy to Use	Accessible Data	Flexible Data	Overall
DATABASE PACKAGES										
AppleWorks	Apple				3.5	2.5	2.5	4.0	4.0	4.0
Bank Street School Filer	Sunburst				3.3	3.0	3.7	3.3	3.5	3.7
Create-A-Base	MECC				3.0	3.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	2.5
Friendly Filer	Grolier				3.2	3.8	3.4	2.5	2.2	3.3
MasterType's Filer	Scarborough				3.0	4.0	3.5	3.0	3.0	2.8
MECC Stuff and Fetch	MECC				2.8	3.0	3.0	2.5	2.0	2.0
Notebook Filer	Heath				2.0	2.5	3.0	2.0	1.5	2.0
Scholastic's PFS: file series	Scholastic				3.8	3.0	3.0	3.7	2.5	3.3
Secret Filer	Scholastic				1.8	3.5	2.5	1.0	2.0	1.5
	AVERAGES:				2.9	3.1	3.1	2.7	2.5	2.8
DATA DISKS										
Countries of the World	Grolier	4.0	3.5	3.5	1.0	2.5	1.0	3.0	1.0	1.5
NewsWorks	News Week	3.3	3.7	3.3	3.3	1.3	2.7	3.0	3.7	3.7
US Government Data Bases	Scholastic	3.0	3.0	3.0	4.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.5
US History Data Bases for PFS	Scholastic	3.3	3.5	3.0	3.7	3.2	3.1	3.2	3.0	3.6
World Past to Present	Heath	3.0	3.5	3.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.5	3.5	4.0
	AVERAGES:	3.3	3.4	3.2	3.2	2.8	2.8	3.1	2.8	3.2
DEDICATED PACKAGES										
Atlas	Softwr Con	3.5	3.5	4.0	3.5	4.0	4.0	3.5	3.0	4.0
Hometown: A Local Area Study	Act. Learn	NA	NA	NA	4.0	3.5	3.7	3.8	3.0	3.5
Macro's World History Databases	MACRO	3.0	4.0	3.7	2.9	2.8	3.2	2.7	2.0	2.8
MECC Dataquest: The Presidents	MECC	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.0	3.0	4.0
One World Countries Database	Act. Learn	3.0	4.0	3.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.0	2.0	3.6
Political Genie	Boring	3.7	4.0	3.7	3.0	3.7	3.7	3.0	NA	4.0
Today in History	Internl.	3.0	3.0	2.5	2.0	4.0	4.0	3.5	2.5	2.5
USA Profile	Act. Learn	3.5	3.2	3.0	3.9	3.8	3.5	3.0	2.7	3.0
	AVERAGES:	3.4	3.7	3.4	3.4	3.7	3.8	3.2	2.6	3.4

CONCLUSIONS

The general purpose database managers require the user to begin at a design stage and continue through to using the information. Some of the dedicated packages begin the user entering information. Other dedicated packages and the data disks allow a student to use the information immediately. When selecting a package, it is important to use the type of package which starts your students at a stage appropriate to their level of ability and computer experience.

Several generalizations can be made:

- Dedicated database packages have fewer features and capabilities than the general purpose database management packages. Generally, the dedicated databases will not sort the data and are limited in the manner in which the search results are reported on the screen or on the printer.

- Dedicated packages are easier to learn and use than the other types of database packages.

- Dedicated database packages were rated higher than the general purpose database packages in every category. Teachers prefer those packages designed for a specific activity in a more ready-to-use form over open-ended packages where the teacher must design and implement the activity.

- The dedicated packages are generally more expensive than the general purpose database packages or the data disks.

- All three types of database packages tend to be inflexible in their screen displays and printed reports.

- Few producers of the database products containing information which becomes dated rapidly have any provision for updating the database.

We can look forward to the following:

- This coming year we can expect to see a large number of new database products. As interest grows in database activities, the developers of educational software are responding with new products. There is a great deal of development under way. Out of the 40 products included in this report approximately eight were released within the preceding six months and another nine packages mentioned are in the final stages of development and will not be available until a few months after the publication of this report.

- We can expect to see packages which make better use of the computer's ability to construct graphs from the information in the database. Currently, few package have this capability.

PACKAGE DESCRIPTIONS AND COMMENTS

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AppleWorks

PRODUCER	COST	HARDWARE	LEVEL	TOPIC	TYPE	REQ.SOFTWARE
Apple	$250.00	AP	4-12	Varies	DBM	None

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: 128k Apple IIe or IIc, two disk drives, monitor, printer (optional)

SOFTWARE DESCRIPTION: Includes one disk with the AppleWorks start-up programs on one side and the AppleWorks Programs on the other, a tutorial disk and a disk containing sample data. The AppleWorks program consists of integrated word processing, database management and spreadsheet components.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS: Includes a 140-page Tutorial Manual, 319-page Reference Manual (32 pages pertain to the database component) and a Quick Reference Card.

COMMENTS:

- The database is extremely flexible allowing for the addition of new fields, renaming of fields, and changing field locations on the screen.
- The database is limited to the number of records which will fit into the internal memory of the machine, about 10k for a 64k Apple and 51k for a 128k Apple.

Bank Street Beginner's Filer

PRODUCER	COST	HARDWARE	LEVEL	TOPIC	TYPE	REQ.SOFTWARE
Sunburst	$79.00	AP	1-4	Varies	DBM	None

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: 48k Apple II+, IIe or IIc, one or two disk drives, printer (optional)

SOFTWARE DESCRIPTION: Includes a Bank Street Beginner's Filer disk which contains the database management software, a back-up disk, a beginner's Classroom Tools disk containing file management utility programs, and a beginner's School Database disk containing sample files.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS: Includes a Teacher's Guide containing a teacher tutorial which corresponds to some of the sample files, five lessons on how to introduce students to file management, a student lesson, classroom activities, and a section on how to organize for the instructional use of file managers.

COMMENTS: Available--September 1986

Bank Street School Filer

PRODUCER	COST	HARDWARE	LEVEL	TOPIC	TYPE	REQ.SOFTWARE
Sunburst	$99.00	AP	4-12	Varies	DBM	None

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: 64K Apple II+, IIe or IIc, one or two disk drives, extended 80-column card (required for 128K version), printer (optional)

SOFTWARE DESCRIPTION: Includes a Bank Street School Filer disk which contains the database management software, a back-up disk, a tutorial disk, a classroom tools disk containing file management utility programs and a school database disk containing sample files.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS: Includes a 167-page Teacher's Guide, a 112-page Reference Manual, and a Quick Reference Card. The Teacher's Guide contains a teacher tutorial which corresponds to some of the sample files, seven lessons on how to introduce students to file management, three student activities, a section on how to organize for the instructional use of file managers, a list of other curriculum ideas, and reproducible worksheets for 29 classroom activities.

COMMENTS:

- The number of records a file may have is limited to a maximum of 256 records on a 64K Apple II or 512 records on a 128K Apple II. The actual capacity of a file is likely to be less than these figures depending upon the amount of information contained in each record.
- The package includes an easy to understand and use tutorial.

Create-A-Base

PRODUCER	COST	HARDWARE	LEVEL	TOPIC	TYPE	REQ.SOFTWARE
MECC	$29.00	AP	6-9	Varies	DBM	None

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: 48k Apple II+ or IIe, one disk drive, monitor, printer (optional)

SOFTWARE DESCRIPTION: Includes one program disk containing the database management software and one back-up disk. A sample database containing information on the 31 presidents is also provided.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS: Includes a general introduction, a list of classroom uses, a summary of the steps involved in creating a database, reproducible student worksheets, 35 pages of program operating instructions for the teacher, 31 pages of program operating instructions for the student, student tutorial, and an answer key.

COMMENTS:

- The package is designed for use in a class where the students share the responsibility for entering the records. It contains a password protected security system which enables the students to search and retrieve all records while only allowing them to edit or delete their own records. On the other hand, the teacher may review and edit the records entered by any student.
- All fields are limited to 23 characters in length except the last field which will allow up to 56 characters.
- The package includes a function which will assist in restoring records on a damaged disk.
- The searching and sorting capabilities of the package are very limited.

Data Handler

PRODUCER	COST	HARDWARE	LEVEL	TOPIC	TYPE	REQ.SOFTWARE
MECC	$49.00	AP	9-12	Varies	DBM	None

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: 48k Apple II+, IIe, or IIc with two disk drives and printer

SOFTWARE DESCRIPTION: Includes one disk containing the database management software and one back-up disk.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS: Includes an 84-page manual containing program operating instructions.

COMMENTS:

- Files may be configured to contain 1050 records with a maximum of 126 characters, or 525 records with a maximum of 254 characters. The total number of characters allowed per record may be divided into as many as 80 fields.
- The package allows the user to assign default values to any field.
- The program is easy to use and completely menu driven.
- Data disks containing sample data files and classroom activities appropriate for use in business education are available from MECC in a package entitled "Data Handler in the Classroom."
- The package is designed for generating printed reports. Records may only be retrieved for editing by an exact match in the key field(s). The results of any search or sort must be printed on the printer and cannot be displayed on the screen.
- In order to search for numeric values less than or greater than a given value, all of the entries must be filled with leading and trailing zeroes to make all contain the same number of digits.

Electric Desk

PRODUCER	COST	HARDWARE	LEVEL	TOPIC	TYPE	REQ.SOFTWARE
IBM	$86.00	IB	6-12	N	DBM	DOS

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: 128K IBM PC or PCjr, color or black and white monitor, printer

SOFTWARE DESCRIPTION: Includes one disk and a ROM cartridge which contains integrated sets of programs for database management, spreadsheet, word processing and communications. The disk also contains one sample file for each of the database, spreadsheet and word processor programs.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS: Includes one manual with approximately 300 pages of program operating instructions of which about 70 pages relate to the database manager.

COMMENTS:

- A record is limited to a total of 1000 characters for all of the fields. For example, a database could be designed using ten fields of 100 characters each.
- Copying records and reconfiguring the database once data has been entered is technically possible but requires a very difficult and involved process.

FileVision

PRODUCER	COST	HARDWARE	LEVEL	TOPIC	TYPE	REQ.SOFTWARE
Telos	$78.00	MC	7-16	Varies	DBM	None

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: Apple MacIntosh

SOFTWARE DESCRIPTION: Includes one 3.5 inch diskette containing the database management software and two sample files. One sample file entitled MAP displays a map of the 48 states and contains records made up of information about each state and fictitious field offices in various states. The other sample file contains the inventory of a fictitious wine cellar. FileVision makes use of the graphics capabilities of the MacIntosh by associating each record with a visual image on the screen. The results of searches are demonstrated by highlighting the associated image. For example, the MAP database could be searched for all states entering the union after 1893. Those states identified by the search would be highlighted on the map. A graphics utility is available for creating your drawings.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS: Includes a 154-page manual containing program operating instructions.

COMMENTS:

- An object is an image created using the computer graphics feature. Each object is then associated with a data record. Data records may be one of up to 16 types, each type comprised of up to 30 fields.
- The program is very easy to learn to use. It makes excellent use of graphics to display the results of a search.
- The program will not perform calculations of any type.
- Telos Software sponsors a public domain library of FileVision databases and templates, some of which are appropriate for education. Contact Telos Software for more information (see Producer List).
- Much of the educational use of FileVision is going on at the postsecondary level. Interesting applications of FileVision can be found at Mississippi State College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Utah Center for Archaeology, Northwestern University, University of Washington Center for Social Science, Portland State University, University of Oregon and San Francisco State University, to name a few.

Friendly Filer

PRODUCER	COST	HARDWARE	LEVEL	TOPIC	TYPE	REQ.SOFTWARE
Grolier	$54.95	AP CO IB	4-12	Varies	DBM	DOS 2.0 for IBM

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: 64K Apple II family, one disk drive and printer interface in slot #1. Commodore 64 or 128 with one disk drive. 128K IBM PC, XT or PCjr with one disk drive.

SOFTWARE DESCRIPTION: Includes one disk and one back-up disk containing the data base management software, an introduction to database management, a tutorial on how to use Friendly Filer, and a sample data file containing information on twenty animals.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS: Includes a 24-page User's Guide and a 16-page Instructor's Guide. The User's Guide contains background information, program operating instructions and suggested applications. The Instructor's Guide contains learning objectives, teacher's instructions and suggested classroom activities.

COMMENTS:

- Because Friendly Filer is very easy to use, it makes an excellent introductory database package.
- The tutorials and sample data files are a very nice feature but the tutorials are slow moving.
- The major weakness of this package is that it only allows for seven fields per record.

Mastertype's Filer

PRODUCER	COST	HARDWARE	LEVEL	TOPIC	TYPE	REQ.SOFTWARE
Scarborough	$39.95	AP IB CO AT	3-12	Varies	DBM	DOS for IBM

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: 64K Apple II+, IIe or IIc with one disk drive. Commodore 64 witn one disk drive. 48K Atari 600/800 with one disk drive. IBM PC, XT or PCjr. Printer is recommended for all systems.

SOFTWARE DESCRIPTION: Includes one disk with the database management software on one side and sample files on the other side. The sample files are titled "State Capitals," "Address Book," "Home Inventory," "Paper Route," "Time Table," "Vid/audio Tapes," "Sports Stats," "Software," and "G. S. Cookies, Inc."

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS: Includes a 63-page User's Guide containing background information and operating instructions.

COMMENTS:

- The package includes a quiz feature which will generate questions from any database containing at least ten records. The user selects the question field, the answer field, a random or ordered sequence of questions, and a fill-in-the-blank or multiple choice format. A score is given at the completion of the quiz.
- The package is very easy to use.

MECC Stuff and Fetch

PRODUCER	COST	HARDWARE	LEVEL	TOPIC	TYPE	REQ.SOFTWARE
MECC	$49.00	AP	6-10	Varies	DBM	None

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: 64K Apple IIc or IIe with 80-column card, a monochrome monitor, one or two disk drives and printer

SOFTWARE DESCRIPTION: Includes one program disk containing the database management software with one sample file, and one back-up disk. Each record of the sample file contains a clue for solving a mystery story problem. The students can practice with the database by manipulating the clues in search of a solution to the mystery.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS: Includes a 43-page manual containing program description, background information, learning objectives, notes to the teacher, lesson plans for four student lessons, and reproducible student worksheets.

COMMENTS:

- This program operates differently from other database packages in that it does not require defined fields. The user is given a computerized notecard upon which they may type information using a built-in word processor. Each computerized notecard is then filed as a record on the disk which may be retrieved by any letter, word or phrase contained in the text.
- A data disk may contain one file with 50 to 150 records depending upon the length of the records.
- The program contains a function which enables the teacher to collect the records (computerized notecards) created by several students on several disks onto one master disk.
- The program is very limited in its ability to manipulate the information in the database.

Notebook Filer

PRODUCER	COST	HARDWARE	LEVEL	TOPIC	TYPE	REQ.SOFTWARE
Heath	$51.00	AP	3-12	Varies	DBM	None

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: 64K Apple II+, IIe or IIc, one or two disk drives, monitor and printer (optional). If one disk drive is used, the program disk and the data disk must be exchanged several times during use.

SOFTWARE DESCRIPTION: Includes one program disk and one back-up disk containing the database management software on one side and six sample files on the other side. The sample files are entitled: "Mailing Labels," "Client Files," "Messages," "Musical Notes," "Library," and "Survey File."

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS: Includes a 33-page User's Guide containing background information, program operating instructions, and explanation of the sample files, instructions for recovering information on damaged disks, and a glossary.

COMMENTS:

- During the creation of a database, the program calculates and displays the maximum number of records the file will contain after the creation of each field. A typical database using nine fields would hold about 120 records.
- The program allows for the generation of both screen and printed reports in tabular or label format. The table format allows for multiple line reports.
- Help screens are available from the main menu.

Rapid Recall

PRODUCER	COST	HARDWARE	LEVEL	TOPIC	TYPE	REQ.SOFTWARE
CBS	$49.95	AP IB	4-12	Varies	DBM	DOS for IBM

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: 128K IBM PC or PCjr with one disk drive, monitor and printer (optional). 128K Apple IIe or IIc with one disk drive, monitor and printer (optional).

SOFTWARE DESCRIPTION: Includes one disk containing the database management software and a data disk containing sample files. The sample files represent administrative and teacher utility uses.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS: Includes a 25-page manual containing program operating instructions and suggestions for administrative and teacher utility use of the package.

COMMENTS: Apple version available fall 1986.

- The program provides the option of storing all of the records in RAM or on the disk during use of a file. Thus the package has the capability of operating very fast with a smaller size database or slower using larger databases.

- This particular database is unique in that each record is a page on the screen limited to 56 lines of text. Each line is handled like a separate field. The database does not require the use of field names. Each page is automatically stored in the database in alphabetical order by the first line. Lines on a page may also be arranged in alphabetical order.

- The maximum number of records varies depending upon the amount of information on each page and whether the database is stored in RAM or on the disk during use. For the disk based operation, a file will generally hold over 1000 records.

Scholastic PFS:file
Scholastic PFS:report

PRODUCER	COST	HARDWARE	LEVEL	TOPIC	TYPE	REQ.SOFTWARE
Scholastic	see below	AP IB	7-12	Varies	DBM	DOS for IBM

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: 64K or 128K Apple IIe or IIc, one disk drive, monitor and printer. Versions are available for both Apple DOS 3.3 and PRODOS. If PFS:report and/or graph are used, two disk drives are required. 128K IBM PC with one disk drive monitor and printer.

COST: PFS:file --$ 99.95, PFS:file lab pack --$185.00
PFS:report--$134.95, PFS:report lab pack--$185.00

SOFTWARE DESCRIPTION: Each regular package includes one program disk, a back-up disk and a learning activities disk containing sample files. Lab packs include five program disks and five learning activities disks. PFS:file is required in order to use PFS:report.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS: PFS:file includes one manual containing detailed program operating instructions and teaching guide outlining fourteen learning activities using the program and sample data files. PFS:report includes one manual containing a teaching guide and learning activities. Both include a Reference Guide, Quick Reference Card, Glossary and Troubleshooting Instructions.

COMMENTS:

- The maximum number of records is limited to the space available on one data disk. A typical file of ten fields would hold around 400 or 500 records on the Apple, or around 1400 on an IBM depending upon the length of the fields.
- PFS:graph from Personal Software or Scholastic ($134.95), enables the user to quickly construct line, bar or pie charts from the data stored on a PFS:file data disk.
- The PFS series is generally easy to learn and use. The supplementary materials are very complete.
- The package provides a means of modifying a file once data has been entered, however, the process requires a long time (20 minutes or more) to complete.

Secret Filer

PRODUCER	COST	HARDWARE	LEVEL	TOPIC	TYPE	REQ.SOFTWARE
Scholastic	$29.95	AP CO	4-8	Varies	DBM	None

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: 48K Apple II+ or IIe with one disk drive, AppleMouse or joystick, and ImageWriter printer (optional). Commodore 64 with one disk drive, monitor and printer (optional).

SOFTWARE DESCRIPTION: Includes one disk containing the database management software and a back-up.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS: Includes ten pages of program operating instructions.

COMMENTS:

- The program is very easy to learn to use.
- The program is very limited in its capabilities. Searching for a record requires the entry of the complete data item contained in the field. Records cannot be removed from the file. Printing is limited to a note card format of the entire record, one record at a time.
- There is no method for determining how many records a file could contain.

Three To Get Ready

PRODUCER	COST	HARDWARE	LEVEL	TOPIC	TYPE	REQ.SOFTWARE
Queue	$125.00	AP IB	6-12	Varies	DBM	DOS for IBM

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: 64K Apple IIe or IIc with one disk drive, monitor and printer. 64K IBM PC or PCjr, one disk drive and printer.

SOFTWARE DESCRIPTION: Includes seven disks, a database manager and turorial, a word processor and tutorial, a spreadsheet and tutorial, and a disk containing sample files.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS: Includes a 163-page manual containing a program overview, suggestions for classroom use, student instructions, a glossary, and a series of fifteen lessons which teach the operation of the software.

COMMENTS:

- Because the program uses one disk drive, the user is required to exchange between the program disk and the data disk frequently.

Data Pursuits: Countries of the World

PRODUCER	COST	HARDWARE	LEVEL	TOPIC	TYPE	REQ.SOFTWARE
Grolier	$44.95	AP	3-9	Geography	Data	Friendly Filer

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: See requirements for Friendly Filer.

SOFTWARE DESCRIPTION: One side of the disk contains Data Pursuits, a modified version of Friendly Filer which includes a set of 18 challenge questions to be answered by searching a database on countries of the world. The other side of the disk contains the same database which can be accessed and/or modified using Friendly Filer. The database contains the name, continent, area, population, languages spoken, religions and one other major fact for 167 countries.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS: Includes a 12-page User's Guide which contains a program overview, notes to the teacher, background information about databases and program operating instructions.

UPDATES: Not determined.

COMMENTS:

- The database contains a lot of useful information about the countries.
- The documentation was weak and difficult to use.

Friendly Files: U.S. And World Facts

PRODUCER	COST	HARDWARE	LEVEL	TOPIC	TYPE	REQ.SOFTWARE
Grolier	$14.95	AP CO IB	3-9	Geography	Data	Friendly Filer

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: See the requirements for Friendly Filer.

SOFTWARE DESCRIPTION: Includes one data disk containing four Friendly Filer databases entitled "Countries of the World," "The 50 U.S. States," "Dependent States and Territories," and "State and Country Reading Guide." Each database contains seven fields of information.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS: Includes a seven-page instruction guide.

NewsWorks

PRODUCER	COST	HARDWARE	LEVEL	TOPIC	TYPE	REQ.SOFTWARE
News Week	See Below	AP	9-12	Geography Economics Government History	Data	AppleWorks

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: 64K Apple IIe or IIc, one or two disk drives, monochrome monitor and printer (optional)

COST: NewsWorks is part of the supplementary teaching materials which are provided with an educational subscription to News Week Magazine. It is the first of what is planned to be a series of data disks. The cost of a minimum subscription ($0.42 per issue for 15 copies a week for 18 weeks) is $113.40.

SOFTWARE DESCRIPTION: Includes one disk containing three AppleWorks database files entitled "World Community," "U.S. Economy," and "U.S. Government." The World Community file contains 28 categories of statistical data for 54 countries of the world. The U.S. Economy file contains 26 categories of economic data for the United States for the even numbered years from 1890 to 1984. The U.S. Government file contains 22 categories of data from each even year election from 1789 to 1984.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS: Includes a 37-page booklet which contains a description of the data files, lesson plans for each of twelve activities, student activities, a reproducible glossary of terms, reproducible activity sheets for each of the twelve activities, ten reproducible supplementary readings, and an AppleWorks quick reference sheet.

UPDATES: New versions are available to continuing subscribers.

COMMENTS:

- The user must be familiar with the database component of AppleWorks prior to using this package. The data files are initially unformatted. The user is able to arrange the data in any manner they choose.
- The databases provide a lot of up-to-date information which is highly applicable to the social studies curriculum.

North America Database Disk

PRODUCER	COST	HARDWARE	LEVEL	TOPIC	TYPE	REQ.SOFTWARE
Sunburst	$59.00	AP	4-12	Geography Economics	Data	Bank Street

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: 64K Apple II+, IIe or IIc, one disk drive and printer. 128K versions are available.

SOFTWARE DESCRIPTION: Includes one disk containing nine databases for Bank Street School Filer. The databases are entitled "Atlas," "States," "Climate," "Economy," "Canada," "Books," "Food," "Glossary," and "Personal."

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS: Includes one manual with an overview of the databases, and an activity guide for each of the nine databases. Each of the activity guides includes notes to the teacher, an overview of the activity for the student, student's instructions, exploration activities, and reproducible worksheets.

UPDATES: Not determined.

COMMENTS: Available July 1986.

NOTEBOOK FILER DATA FILES PACKAGE:
Regions Near and Far
The United States Past to Present
The World Past to Present
The World Today

PRODUCER	COST	HARDWARE	LEVEL	TOPIC	TYPE	REQ.SOFTWARE
Heath	$45.00	AP	4-7	Geography History Current Events	Data	Notebook Filer

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: See requirements for Notebook Filer.

SOFTWARE DESCRIPTION: Each package includes one data disk containing small databases or the beginning of small databases that must be completed by the students. The databases are intended to supplement the D.C. Heath Social Studies textbook series. Databases included with the Regions Near and Far (Grade 4) are entitled: "Northeast USA," "My Geography," "United States," "Land and Water," "Natural Resources," and "Timeline." Databases included with The United States Past to Present (Grade 5) are entitled: "Explorers," "Current Events," "Glossary," "Colonies," "Timeline," "Cause and Effect," "Who's Who," "Presidents," "United States," and "Neighbors." Databases included with The World Past to Present (Grade 6/7) are entitled: "Glossary," "Early Civilizations," "Current Events," "Timeline," "World Regions," "Lifestyles," "Transportation and Technology," "Who's Who," and "Changing Rule." Databases included with the World Today (grades 6/7) are entitled: "Glossary," "Regional Land Use," "Current Events," "Lifestyles," "World Nations," "Natural Resources," "Timeline," "Who's Who," "World Cities," and "Languages."

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS: Each package includes a manual (approximately 35 to 45 pages) which contains objectives, background information about databases, program operating instructions and teacher information. For each database activity, the documentation includes a detailed lesson plan which correlates with the textbook, and reproducible student instructions and data entry forms.

UPDATES: Not Applicable

COMMENTS:

- Many of the activities defined in these products are ongoing classroom activities which span the unit in the textbook.
- Although the activities are designed for use with the D.C. Heath Social Studies textbooks, they could be used with other curricular materials.

SCHOLASTIC PFS CURRICULUM DATA BASES:
U.S. History
U.S Government
World Geography, Cultures and Economics

PRODUCER	COST	HARDWARE	LEVEL	TOPIC	TYPE	REQ.SOFTWARE
Scholastic	$99.95ea.	AP IB	7-12	History Government Geography Economics	Data	PFS:file

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: See requirements for Scholastic PFS:file. Versions are available for both Apple DOS 3.3 and PRODOS. IBM versions available for U.S. History only.

SOFTWARE DESCRIPTION: Each package includes three sets of two disks containing three data files for PFS:file. The data files included with U.S. History are entitled "Frontier," "Inventors," and "20th Century." The data files included with U.S. Government are entitled "Constitutional Convention," "Federal Spending" and "Elections." The data files included with World Geography, Cultures and Economics are information on 100 world countries.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS: Includes an extensive manual containing a Teacher's Guide, three study units involving using existing databases, three units involving the creation of databases, a Quick Reference Guide for using PFS:file, a mini-reference guide for using PFS:file and report, and a Glossary. Each unit contains eight or ten classroom activities and lesson plans.

UPDATES: No Information Available

COMMENTS:

- The supplementary materials are very comprehensive and include lots of good ideas with ready-to-use reproducible worksheets and lesson plans. The package includes a scope and sequence which makes it easy to integrate into long-range lesson plans.
- The data disks are very full and searches sometimes take a long time.
- The records are unprotected and it is easy to contaminate the data by pressing a wrong key.
- World Geography, Cultures and Economics will be available September 1986.

Social Studies Fact Finder:
States--Junior High School
States--High School

PRODUCER	COST	HARDWARE	LEVEL	TOPIC	TYPE	REQ.SOFTWARE
HRM	$59.00	AP	7-12	Geography	Data	PFS:file

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: 64K Apple IIe or IIc, one disk drive and monitor

SOFTWARE DESCRIPTION: Each package includes one data disk for PFS:file containing records on the fifty states. Each record is comprised of seven pages of information organized as follows: 17 fields of population data, eight fields of data about the family, 13 fields of political information, 10 fields of economic data, 11 fields of data about the educational system, 12 fields of geological and environmental data, and eight fields of miscellaneous data such as the state bird, flower, tree, etc.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS: Each package includes five pages of notes to the teacher, a 50 to 65 page States Pack manual, eight student activity cards which corresponds to the manual and data disk, a 24-page Starter Pack manual, and eight student activity cards which correspond to the Starter Pack and disk. The Starter Pack introduces the student to the operation procedures of PFS:file. The manual contains notes to the teacher and reproducible student worksheets which correspond to the student activity cards. Each activity card contains an overview of the activity, definitions of important terms, a list of objectives and an outline of three tasks the student is to complete using the database and PFS:file. The activities outlined in the junior high school version cover topics in demography, economy, education, environment, family, politics, poverty, and urbanization. The senior high version includes activities on economy, education, environment, family, politics, population, poverty, and urbanization.

COMMENTS:

- The junior and senior high school versions of States Pack represents the first in what will become a larger package currently under development by HRM. Beginning September 1986, both the junior and senior high versions will be expanded to include a database on explorers and one on working America. This new product will be priced at approximately $99.00.

Atlas

PRODUCER	COST	HARDWARE	LEVEL	TOPIC	TYPE	REQ.SOFTWARE
Concept	$49.95	MC AP IB	5-12	Geography	Ded.	DOS 2.0 for IBM

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: 128K Apple Macintosh. 128K IBM PC or PCjr with one disk drive, color graphics board and monitor. 64K Apple IIe or IIc with one disk drive and monitor. 128K Tandy 2000 with one disk drive, color graphics board and monitor.

SOFTWARE DESCRIPTION: Includes one disk containing the management software and the database of maps and statistics. The user views the globe as if they were in a satellite and could control its orbit. The scale of the view may range from a picture of the entire globe to a region about the size of Texas. The mouse or arrow keys can be used to find cities on the portion of the globe being displayed. The database contains records for every country of the world, the fifty states of the U.S.A., the ten provinces of Canada and over 2,500 cities around the world. Each record contains the city name and population; the state name, population, area and capital; the country population, area and capital; currency and language. An auto-demo program is included in the MacIntosh version.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS: Includes a User's Manual containing a program overview, program operating instructions and a glossary of terms. An Instructor's Manual is available for an additional $3.95 which contains an outline about how to learn to use the program quickly, a lesson plan for demonstrating the program to students, instructions for printing maps, objectives, lesson plans for ten classroom activities, and reproducible student worksheets.

UPDATES: Registered owners will receive notice about updates.

COMMENTS:

- This package makes excellent use of graphics and is very easy and fun to use.
- Printing the maps on the MacIntosh requires several steps and the use of MacPaint.

Demo-Graphics
World Populations and Projections

PRODUCER	COST	HARDWARE	LEVEL	TOPIC	TYPE	REQ.SOFTWARE
Compress	$95.00	IB	10-16	Demography	Ded.	DOS

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: 128K IBM PC or PCjr with one disk drive, color graphics adapter board, and color or monochrome monitor

SOFTWARE DESCRIPTION: Includes one disk containing the management program and a database with population data on 146 countries of the world. Five different plots are available: age composition for one or two countries, rectilinear plot for one or two countries and sequential plots.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS: Includes a 61-page User's Guide containing program operating instructions, an explanation of the information contained in the database, a list of countries contained in the database, and a glossary.

COMMENTS:

- The package makes good use of color and graphics.

Hometown: A Local Area Study

PRODUCER	COST	HARDWARE	LEVEL	TOPIC	TYPE	REQ.SOFTWARE
Act. Learn	$148.00	AP IB CO AC	4-12	Geography	Ded.	DOS for IBM

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: 64K Apple II+, IIe or IIc with one disk drive. Commodore 64 with one disk drive. 128K IBM PC or PCjr with one disk drive. BBC Acorn with one disk drive. Printer is optional but recommended.

SOFTWARE DESCRIPTION: The package includes two disks containing database software and a data disk for storing survey information about ones hometown.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS: One manual includes 26 pages of teachers notes, 45 pages of step-by-step instructions, 18 reproducible student worksheets, and reference lists of key words used.

COMMENTS:

- Each database created by the user is made up of 15 pre-defined fields and up to 9 user-defined fields. Each field may contain a one-letter code or up to 12 characters. For example, the user could define a one character field entitled 'EXERCISE' with the following codes: A--Daily, B--Often, C--Weekly, D--Seldom, E--Never. Once information has been entered into the database, summaries can be generated giving the distribution of the code selections as a percentage for each field.
- The data disk may contain three files of 800 records each.
- The package is easy to use and contains excellent supplementary materials. One computer can be used to involve an entire class in a database activity.
- During data entry, it is possible to enter more information than the field is designed to accept. If this happens, the extra data is entered into the next field. Correcting typos is difficult and requires a number of steps.

Macro's World History Database

PRODUCER	COST	HARDWARE	LEVEL	TOPIC	TYPE	REQ.SOFTWARE
Macro	-	AP	5-12	History	Ded.	None

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: 64K Apple II+, IIe, or IIc with one disk drive, monitor and printer (optional)

SOFTWARE DESCRIPTION: Includes one double-sided disk containing the database management software, three databases entitled "Families and Societies," "World Population," and "Discoveries and Inventions" and one disk lessons for each file. The "Families and Societies" database has 29 records composed of 45 fields of information about typical families who lived in different parts of the world at different times in history. The "World Population" database has 144 records comprised of 13 fields of population data for six world regions by year from 400 B.C. to 1980 and projected through the year 2000. The "Discoveries and Inventions" database contains 321 records comprised of five fields of information about significant inventions and discoveries. Each database includes questions which can be answered by searching the database.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS: Includes an 87-page manual containing a program overview, program operating instructions, notes to the teacher about the use of databases in the classroom, a description of the lessons on the disk, follow-up lessons to be used after the disk lesson, instructions to the teacher for making their own lessons, references, bibliography, and reproducible student worksheets.

COMMENTS:

- The package is excellent for working on higher level thinking skills by requiring the student to search the database to test hypotheses.
- Initiating a search and/or sort involves the construction of a paragraph which describes the desired results. The paragraph is constructed by selecting phrases from menus. After the search and/or sort has been completed and the student has examined the results, they are given the opportunity to refine the sentence and perform the operation again.
- Use of the package requires a great deal of reading.
- The package includes an introductory tutorial which explains how to use the database. The only way to exit the tutorials is by pressing the Control-Q as the directions indicate. This returns the system prompt and the user must reboot the system.
- The package needs polishing and refinement. The program crashed several times during use. A very poor graphics is used as a reward for solving a problem.
- This product will soon be available from another software publisher not yet identified.

MECC DATAQUEST:
The Fifty States
The Presidents
The Composer

PRODUCER	COST	HARDWARE	LEVEL	TOPIC	TYPE	REQ.SOFTWARE
MECC	$49.00	AP	5-12	Geography Government	Ded.	None

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: 64K Apple II+, IIe or IIc with one disk drive, monitor and printer (optional). 128K required for authoring with the composer. Databases created using the composer will run on 64K machines.

SOFTWARE DESCRIPTION: The Fifty States includes one disk containing the database management software and a database with 43 fields of information on each of the fifty states. The Presidents includes one disk which contains the Presidents Database and management software on one side and Introduction and Report Retrieval on the other side. The Presidents Database contains 23 fields of information on 40 presidents. Both packages include a back-up.

THE COMPOSER: The Composer is a shell program which will enable the teacher to create databases which operate similarly to the MECC Dataquest: The Presidents or Fifty States. The package will be available August 1986.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS: Includes a 45- to 50-page manual containing a program overview, background information about databases, program operating instructions, notes to the teacher about the use of the program in an instructional setting, lesson plans for six or seven classroom activities, reproducible student handouts, an explanation of the fields, an answer key, a bibliography, and technical information about printer support.

COMMENTS:

- In The Fifty States, 28 of the 43 available fields are searchable. In The Presidents, 18 of the 23 fields are searchable.
- The programs are very easy to use and are completely menu driven. Screen instructions describe each function chosen by the user.
- The supplementary materials do a good job of incorporating higher level thinking skills.
- The search results are displayed on the screen using multiple screens each containing a small amount of information.

One World Countries Database

PRODUCER	COST	HARDWARE	LEVEL	TOPIC	TYPE	REQ.SOFTWARE
Act. Learn	$148.00	AP IB CO AC	4-12	Geography Social Science	Ded.	DOS for IBM

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: 64K Apple II+, IIe or IIc with one or two disk drives. Commodore 64 with one disk drive. 128K IBM PC or PCjr with one disk drive. BBC Acorn with one disk drive. Printer is optional but recommended.

SOFTWARE DESCRIPTION: The package includes three disks containing database software and information on 178 countries.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS: One manual includes 14 pages of teacher's notes, 34 pages of step-by-step instructions, 13 reproducible student worksheets, 10 classroom activity cards, four study cards, reference lists of key words used and three reproducible world maps.

UPDATES: Annually--available for a nominal fee to registered users

COMMENTS:

- The program is very easy to use. Introductory help screens are available from the main menu.
- The supplementary materials provide a focus to the use of the package and were prepared in an attractive format.
- Twenty of the thirty-three fields are searchable and the search logic is restricted to any three of the twenty fields. Numeric searches are limited to equal-to or greater-than. Edits can be made to five of the 33 fields which are most likely to change.
- The report format options are very limited. The user may either print all of the information about a particular country, or print the country name plus select three of twenty-four other fields at a time.

Political Genie:
House Version
Senate Version

PRODUCER	COST	HARDWARE	LEVEL	TOPIC	TYPE	REQ.SOFTWARE
Boring	$75.00	AP IB	9-12	Political Science	Ded.	DOS for IBM

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: 128K Apple IIe or IIc with one disk drive and monitor. 128K IBM PC with one disk drive and monitor.

SOFTWARE DESCRIPTION: The software includes the database management software and a database containing the voting records of the 435 congressmen on 100 legislative issues in the house version and the voting records for the 100 senators on another 100 issues in the senate version. Each respective package also provides a mini-biography of each congressman or senator, a listing of interesting facts about each state, and a brief explanation of the 100 issues. The program and data are stored on four disks in the Apple version and two disks in the IBM version.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS: Includes a four-page overview, a 26-page Technical Manual and a 51-page Teacher's Manual. The Technical Manual contains mainly the program operating instructions. The Teacher's Manual contains program operating instructions, objectives, prerequisites, sample output, suggestions for classroom use, suggested techniques for student evaluation, reproducible student worksheets and an index of the issues.

UPDATES: New editions produced annually.

COMMENTS:

- The package gives students the opportunity to examine the issues, examine voting records and compare their opinion with the records of members of congress.
- The database is very large and contains a wealth of information.
- The size of the database requires frequent disk swapping and often runs very slowly as it pauses to clear memory space on the Apple version.
- The program displays a bar graph showing how the votes of the user on the issues agreed or disagreed with the chosen congressman or senator.

PRODUCER	COST	HARDWARE	LEVEL	TOPIC	TYPE	REQ.SOFTWARE
Economic	$424.00	IB	11-16	Economics	Ded.	DOS 2.0

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: 196K IBM PC, XT or AT with color graphics board, monochrome or color monitor, and printer (optional)

SOFTWARE DESCRIPTION: Includes three RESEARCH program disks and two disks containing sample files. The data disks contain a number of databases, each with 20 fields of economic data for various intervals of time to the present.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS: Includes a 179-page manual containing a program overview, 25 lessons explaining the use of the software, a glossary of terms, a description of the fields, and an explanation of error messages.

UPDATES: Data update service is available for $16.00 per month.

COMMENTS:

- The above price includes one year of program enhancements. The package is available for $224.00 without the enhancements. Site licensing is available for $1000.00.
- Data searches are limited to a date or an interval of dates. Depending on the database, the search of results may be reported in terms of daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly or in a variety of other periods or statistics.
- The package will perform a number of statistical analysis functions including standard deviation and graphing.
- A storyboard enables the user to create and sequence up to 400 graphs of the data stored in the database for later presentation.

Today in History

PRODUCER	COST	HARDWARE	LEVEL	TOPIC	TYPE	REQ.SOFTWARE
Internl.	$49.95	IB RS	4-12	History	Ded.	DOS for IBM

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: 64K IBM PC with one disk drive, monitor and printer (optional). 32K TRS-80 model I/III/IV with one disk drive and printer.

SOFTWARE DESCRIPTION: Includes one disk containing the database management software and database files. The database contains one record for each day of the year. Each record gives the year, names of important persons who were born or died and up to 12 other historical events which occurred on the selected date.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS: Includes a four-page instruction sheet containing program operating instructions.

UPDATES: Updated by user.

COMMENTS:

- The program is very easy to use.
- New data items can easily be entered (including students' birthdays).
- The items identified appear to be from 1400 to present. The database would be more useful if it included events from a designated period of time such as the 20th Century or the Middle Ages, etc.
- The information in the database can only be retrieved by the day of the year. It would be helpful if the data could be searched by year or event.

USA Profile

PRODUCER	COST	HARDWARE	LEVEL	TOPIC	TYPE	REQ.SOFTWARE
Act. Learn	$148.00	AP IB CO	5-12	Geography History	Ded.	DOS for IBM

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: 64K Apple II+, IIe or IIc with one disk drive. Commodore 64 with one disk drive. 128K IBM PC or PCjr with one disk drive. BBC Acorn with one disk drive. Printer is optional but recommended.

SOFTWARE DESCRIPTION: The package includes two disks containing database software and information on the fifty states and the District of Columbia.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS: One manual which contains a description of the database, step-by-step instructions, a flowchart of the program operation, and six units of study which include teacher lesson plans, reproducible student information sheets and worksheets, and answer keys. The units are "Early American History," "Environment," "Population & Urbanization," "Employment & Unemployment," "Income--A Study of Income Distribution & Related Factors," and "The Family."

UPDATES: Annually--available for a nominal fee to registered users

COMMENTS:

- The documentation is very comprehensive and designed for teachers.
- The program is easy to use and provides a nice introduction to the processes of using the computer as a research tool.
- By using the activites as directed, the package progresses from retrieval of simple facts to critical analysis of information.
- Twenty of the sixty fields are searchable and the search logic is restricted to any three of the twenty fields. When searching a numeric field, the program displays the maximum, minimum, and average ranges.
- The package is limited to searching and retrieving information from the database. A major problem with the package is that it will not sort the data. This severely limits its data analysis capabilities.
- There is no way to edit the information contained in the database. Updates must be acquired from the producer.
- The information under the "History" category is often sketchy and omits some important events.

The U.S. Constitution: Then and Now

PRODUCER	COST	HARDWARE	LEVEL	TOPIC	TYPE	REQ.SOFTWARE
Scholastic	-	AP	7-12	History Government	Data	AppleWorks

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: See requirements for AppleWorks.

SOFTWARE DESCRIPTION: Includes two disks containing several databases, word processing documents and spreadsheets.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS: Approximately 200 pages of documentation includes lesson plans, and a textbook correlation matrix. One unit of study involves the students in the role playhing of the U.S. Constitutional Convention in 1787. The other unit is a contemporary case study around the issue of the student's right to privacy. It involves researching the Bill of Rights and Supreme Court cases.

UPDATES: No information available.

COMMENTS: Available Winter 1986.

APPENDIX

MORE ABOUT DATABASE MANAGERS

Software packages which turn a computer into an electronic filing cabinet are called database managers or filers. They consist of two major components, a database managed program which manages the data, and the data which is often on a separate disk. All of the information stored in a database must fit an organized structure determined by the user or designer of the database. This structure is made up of several levels:

Fields--The items of information at the lowest level of the structure are called fields. For example, a database containing information on the fifty states might contain a field for the name of the state, another for the population of the state, another for the major cities, and so on.

Field Names--Each field is assigned a field name. In the "states" database, a field for the abbreviation of the state could be assigned the field name ABBREV. Fields and field names are so closely related that the word "field" generally refers to the combination of both.

Pages--At the next level, the fields are arranged into pages on the computer screen. For example, our "states" database could be organized so that the first page contains all of the fields relating to the geography of the state and the second page contains all of the fields relating to the economy of the state.

Form or template--Your arrangement of the fields on the screen make up an electronic "blank form" or template.

Records--Records are completed forms. For example, our "states" database would contain a record for Oregon and another record for New York.

File--The collection of all completed records is stored in a file on the data disk under a file name. Generally, the file name describes the class of information in the file. Our example database could be assigned the file name "STATES."

Once this organized structure has been established and records have been entered into the database, the database management software generally provides the following capabilities.

- Add records by completing a form.
- Delete records.
- Retrieve records by searching for some bit of known information contained in the record.
- Edit records by retrieving the record then changing the contents of a field.
- Sort the records in some order defined by the user.
- Print reports from the database using selected fields from selected records in a given order.
- Some database management software provide for calculating totals, averages, counts, etc.

PRODUCER INFORMATION

Act. Learn

Active Learning Systems
P.O. Box 1984
Midland, MI 48640
517/835-7051
800/423-0818

Purchase Information: Additional data disks are available for $20.00 each. All products are licensed to the user. Disks are copy-protected and back-ups are available separately for $30.00 a disk. The disks are covered under a 30-day warranty upon return of registration form. After 30-days, damaged disks may be replaced for $20.00 per disk.

Apple

Apple Computer, Inc.
20525 Mariana Avenue
Cupertino, CA 95014

Boring

Boring Software Co.
P.O. Box 568
Boring, OR 97009
503/663-4464

Purchase Information: All products are licensed to the user. Lab pack available containing one complete set plus four sets of disks for $300.00. Replacement of damaged disks—$10.00. Back-up of program disk—$5.00.

CBS

CBS Interactive Learning
1 Fawcett Place
Greenwich, CT 06838
800/CBS-ASK4

Purchase Information: Complete refund within 30 days if unsatisfied with any product. Lab packs containing ten sets of program disks available for three times the regular price. Back-up disks provided with all products.

COMPress

COMPress
P.O. Box 102
Wentworth, NH 03282
800/221-0419

Economic

Economic Software Inc.
P.O. Box 10925
Eugene, OR 97440
800/228-2496, 503/485-6599

Grolier

Grolier Electronic Publishing, Inc.
Sherman Turnpike
Danbury, CT 06816
800/858-8858

Purchase Information: Full refund if returned within 30 days. Lab packs available for most products. Back-up disks are included with all school products.

Heath

D.C. Heath Software
125 Spring Street
Lexington, MA 02173
800/225-1149

Purchase Information: Full refund if returned within 30 days in saleable condition. Lab packs containing ten disks available for four times the regular price. Back-up disks are included with all products. After the 30-day warranty has expired, damaged disks may be replaced for $8.00 each.

HRM

HRM Software
175 Tompkins Avenue
Pleasantville, NY 10570
800/431-2050

Purchase Information: Most programs available for a free 30-day preview.

IBM

IBM, Inc.
Your Local IBM Sales Representative.

Internl.

International Computer Products
346 N. Western Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90004
213/462-8381

MACRO

MACRO Systems, Inc.
8630 Fenton Street
Silver Spring, MD 20910
301/588-5484

MECC

MECC
3490 Lexington Avenue North
St. Paul, MN 55126
612/481-3500

Purchase Information: Preview Policy--30-day return privilege. Lab packs available containing from 5 to 10 additional diskettes. Institutional memberships and license agreements available. Hard disk versions available. All products include a limited booting back-up. All products are backed by a lifetime guarantee. Damaged disks are replaced for no cost. A technical assistance help line is available (612/481-3660).

News Week

News Week Education Division
Box 414
Livingston, NJ 07039
800/526-2595

Prog. Des.

Program Design International
798 N Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06606
800/232-2224, 203/335-0908

Purchase Information: Return within 30 days for a full refund after preview.

Scarborough

Scarborough Systems, Inc.
55 South Broadway
Tarrytown, NY 10591
914/332-4545

Purchase Information: Educational discounts are available.

Scholastic

Scholastic Software
2931 East McCarty Street
P.O. Box 5702
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Purchase Information: Return within 30 days for full refund or cancellation of purchase order. Lab pack available for most products. Discounts are available for multiple copy purchase.

Softwr Con — Software Concepts, Inc.
P.O. Box 3323
Wallingford, CT 06494
203/357-0522

Purchase Information: Software is licensed to the user and covered under a 30-day warranty. After three days damaged disks may be replaced for a nominal fee.

Sunburst — Sunburst Communications
39 Washington Avenue
Pleasantville, NY 10570-9971

Purchase Information: Free 30-day preview upon request. Lab packs and network versions available for most products. Lifetime replacement warranty.

Telos — Telos Software Products
3420 Ocean Park Blvd.
Santa Monica, CA 90405
213/450-2424

OTHER RESOURCES

DBKIDS News Letter

This newsletter exchanges ideas and information on design and use of databases for learning and teaching. To receive DBKIDS, send ideas, questions, news, references or research reports to:

Beverly Hunter
Targeted Learning Corporation
Route 1, Box 190
Amissville, Virginia 22002
SOURCE STT786
CompuServe 70014,65

Learning and Teaching with DataBases: A Bibliography
Compiled by Beverly Hunter, Targeted Learning Corporation, January 1986

Lists articles, technical reports, books and learning materials related to the use of computers in social science instruction.

For the purposes of this report, only packages which are appropriate for classroom use and fall into one of the catagories described earlier were included. There are two other technologies which relate to microcomputer database applications in social studies, on-line databases and CDROM, which warrant an explanation.

- Commercial On-Line Database Services--With the aid of modern-day satellite telecommunications, a wealth of information is available from a number of commercially available databases from a variety of database vendors. To access this information the user must have a microcomputer with a modem, communications software and a subscription to the appropriate database service. The Appendix of this document contains a list of a few of the available database services appropriate for classroom use.

- CDROM--CDROM (Compact Disk Read Only Memory) involves the use of laser technology to store huge amounts (550 million characters) of information on an optical disk four and three-quarter inches in diameter. For approximately $1500.00 a special disk drive can be added to an IBM or Apple computer for reading these disks. Such storage capability plus incredibly fast retrieval gives CDROM the potential to revolutionize the way we record and access information in the future. Currently, the only educational product for this type of system is The Electronic Encyclopedia available from Grolier (see Producer List).

List of On-Line Services

BRS

Alcohol Use/Abuse
Druginfo
Druginfo/Alcohol Use-Abuse
Family Resources
PAIS International (Public Affairs Information Service)

CompuServe

Academic American Encyclopedia
Economic Forecasts
EPIE Database
National Issues Forum
Students' Forum
Washington Post News

The Source

Associated Press
Today (news)
United Press International
Washington Post

BIBLIOGRAPHY

"DBKIDS Newsletter," Amissville, VA: Targeted Learning Corporation, January 1985, Spring 1986.

Hunter, Beverly. "The Case for a Classroom Debate." Instructor, March 1985, p. 54.

Hunter, Beverly. Personal Computers and Social Education: A Resource Guide. Cupertino, CA: Apple Computer, Inc., 1984.

Hunter, Beverly. "Powerful Tools for your Social Studies Classroom." Classroom Computer Learning, October 1983, p. 50.

Hunter, Beverly. "Problem Solving with Data Bases." The Computing Teacher, May 1985, p. 20.

Hunter, Beverly and Dr. Mary Furlong. "Meet the Presidents." Teaching and Computers, February 1986, p. 12.

Urschel, William. "Data Base/Filer Software." Personal Computing, April 1985, p. 203.

Reviews were taken from the following publications:

Electronic Learning Magazine
Scholastic, Inc.
730 Broadway
New York, New York 10003-9538

Evaluations: Microware
British Columbia Provincial Media Centre
7351 Elmbridge Way
Richmond, British Columbia V6X 1B8

Instructor's 1985-1986 Computer Directory for Schools
Instructor Publications, Inc.
545 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10017

@ Micro '85 Software Evaluations
Florida Center for Instructional Computing
College of Education, University of Southern Florida,
Tampa, Florida 33620

MicroSIFT
Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory
300 S.W. Sixth Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97204

Technology in the Curriculum
Office of Publication Sales
P.O. Box 944272
State Department of Education
Sacramento, California 94244-2720

Evaluations were conducted by a group of teachers from the following organizations:

Portland Public Schools, Portland, Oregon
Beaverton School District, Beaverton, Oregon
North Clackamas School District, Milwaukie, Oregon